

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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Co-Chairs:

Hon. Clyde Burmaster

Hon. William A. Pauly

MEMORANDUM

To: ENRP Chairs Burmaster & Pauly
From: ENRP Economic Development Subcommittee Chair Albert DeBenedetti
Re: May, 2001 subcommittee meetings
Date: June 6, 2001

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met May 21, 2001 at Pizzeria Uno on Maple Road in Amherst. Present for the meeting were Subcommittee members Burmaster, Coan, Eldridge, Johnson (proxy), and Simon.

An update was given on the joint marketing of the Workforce Investment Act at a two-county level, which ENRP approved in 2000. Subcommittee member Simon reported that not only will the two counties jointly market the WIA, but that Chautauqua County will also join the effort. They hope to formally launch the effort by September 1, 2001. Simon noted that the state was not prepared to meet the original implementation date of July 1, 2000.

Following up on the joint meeting with the Transportation Subcommittee earlier in the year, the subcommittee discussed ways to tie rail and the airports more closely to spur economic development in the region. The Lehigh Valley yard in Niagara Falls was identified as a key to moving cargo into Niagara County from Canada and linking it all to the Niagara Falls Airport. The NCIDA and NC would apply for this when the state releases the RFP for the yard. **The ENRP Economic Development Subcommittee requests approval to encourage New York State to release the RFP for the Lehigh Valley yard.**

(cont.)

Members: Hon. John Connolly * Hon. Albert DeBenedetti * Mr. Thomas Dziedzic * Mr. Brian Eldridge * Hon. Bradley Erck * Mr. Samuel Ferraro * Hon. John Greenan * Mr. Clyde Johnston * Mr. Thomas Kucharski * Ms. Maria Lehman * Hon. Peter McMahon * Hon. Gerald Meal * Mr. Robert Miller * Hon. Sean O'Connor * Hon. Crystal Peoples * Mr. Lawrence Rubin * Mr. David Rutecki * Mr. Kevin Schuler * Mr. John Simon * Hon. Robert Villani * Hon. Barry Weinstein, M.D. * Mr. Peter Wendel * Ad Hoc: Ms. Cyd Bennett, Mr. Richard Geiger, Mr. Luke Rich, Mr. Stan Rydelek

Subcommittee members Simon and Burmaster gave an update on the Niagara County portion of the produce quick cool project, noting that Niagara County farmers have yet to take advantage of the money available for the unit. Burmaster suggested that perhaps some of the money currently being housed at the ECIDA for the project could be diverted to provide Niagara County's share of the BNE land use survey cost (\$25,000).

Other topics discussed included the Niagara Falls Airport lease, passenger rail, and Niagara County wineries.

Finally, a formal thank you was given to Subcommittee member Ron Coan for his hard work and dedication as a founding member of the ENRP.